

Attachments to this amendment include Substitute Figures 1A-B, 2A-B, 3A-B, 4A-B, 5, 6, 7A-B, 8, 9A-C, 10A-F, 11, 12A-D, and 13.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 11 with the following paragraph:

Figure 5 is a Western blot analysis of cell lysates using polyclonal anti-GST antiserum (lanes 1, 2, and 3), HCV negative human serum (lanes 4, 5 and 6, labeled "PIZZOUS"), and HCV positive human serum (lanes 7, 8, and 9). Lanes 3, 6, and 9 correspond to bacteria harboring the pGEX-3x vector, lanes 2, 5, and 8 correspond to bacteria harboring plasmid pHPI 663 (large part of core+1 DNA), and lanes 1, 4 and 7 correspond to bacteria harboring plasmid pHPI 668 (truncated part of core+1 DNA).